



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Alaska



NRCS partnership with The Conservation Fund, U.S. Air Force invests nearly \$2.6 million to protect wetlands surrounding Eielson Air Force Base

Tanana River Watershed Project funded through USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program



PALMER, ALASKA, April 16, 2020 – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today announced it's investing nearly \$1.3 million in Alaska for a new conservation project in the Fairbanks region that will protect critical wetland sites adjacent to Eielson Air Force Base.

The funding comes from USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and will be matched with contributions from The Conservation Fund and the U.S. Air Force, bringing the project total investment to nearly \$2.6 million.

"This project is a great example of partners working together to align our collective resources toward a common goal," said State Conservationist Alan McBee. "We're making an impact on natural resource conservation in Alaska that could not be achieved by any single organization."

The Tanana River Watershed RCPP project will protect critical wetland sites on private lands adjacent to Eielson Air Force Base and the Tanana River through conservation easements.

The Tanana River Watershed is the largest populated watershed in Interior Alaska, totaling more than 28.5 million acres and containing 25 cities, towns, and villages. Significant increases in urbanization and non-point

source pollution have followed expanded military activity in the region. The over-arching goals of the RCPP project are to:

- Limit impacts to soil and water quality and quantity from forecasted military and urban expansion;
- Support state-wide and local food security; and
- Establish reliable funding for long-term resource conservation.

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